(d) Steps being taken to achieve the targets set for SAIL plants for 1991-92 are mainly:—

(i) Ensure adequate availability of inputs of right quality in the required quantity;

(ii) Improved maintenance of plant and equipment;

(iii) Augment the captive power generation.

Cooperative Credit Societies

168. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of borrowing Members of cooperative societies and share of co-operatives in agricultural credit have gone down; and

(b)) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to revitalise co-operative credit societies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLAY RAMACHANDRAN). (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Poor resource base, low member participation, high percentage of overdues and unviable lending operations are the chief causes for the declining role of credit cooperatives in the disimbursement of agricultural credit. The Agricultural Credit Review Committee which examined the reasons for the weaknesses in credit cooperatives, recommended that an action programme be drawn up for each Primary Agricultural Cooperative Society for making it viable.

Accordingly, a Business Development Planning Programme has been initiated for revitalisation of Primary Agricultural Cooperatives, which aims at increasing member participation, improving deposit mobilisation and increasing the overall business of Primary Agricultural Cooperative Societies all over the country.

National Cooperative Bank

169. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for setting up a national cooperative bank; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Registrar of Cooperative Societies has received a proposal for registration of National Cooperative Bank of India under Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act, 1984 and the Rules thereunder from National Co-operative Union of India (NCUI), the Chief Promoters. The proposal is for setting up of a cooperative bank at National level with the membership of state level|national level Apex Cooperatives Bank and urban co-operative Banks. The objective of the proposed bank is to serve as balancing centre for cooperative banking institutions in the country by mobilising surplus funds from the cooperative sector and to invest them in other sectors of cooperatives. As the proposal relates to setting up of a bank, the approval of Reserve Bank of India has been sought.

Comprehensives Agricultural Policy

170. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are formulating a comprehensive agricultural policy resolution;

(b) if so, what are the main features thereof; and